

Student / Parent
Handbook

for

TARGET

Grades K-8 / 9-12

Holden R-III School
District

Introduction

The Holden R-III District recognizes that academically gifted students possess unique cognitive and affective abilities. Holden R-III District has established a program grades 2-8 and advanced classes grades 9-12 in order to challenge these students. Holden uses the acronym TARGET (*T*ogether we're *A*chieving and *R*eaching our *G*oals and *E*nriching our *T*alents). The Holden R-III District has a state assisted gifted education program and receives financial assistance from the state.

Definition of Gifted

According to the Missouri state definition of gifted, "Gifted students are defined as those students who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential as determined by a competent professional evaluation to the extent that their continued educational growth and stimulation could best be served by an academic environment beyond that offered in a regular public school environment.

Some characteristics of gifted children are:

1. Learns rapidly and easily; retains and uses what he/se has heard or read without appearing to need much drill.
2. Thinks clearly; recognize implied relationships; comprehends meanings; can draw accurate generalizations; can think abstractly.
3. Has advanced vocabulary.
4. Is able to read above grade level.
5. Is intellectually curious, investigative, ask penetrating and searching questions.
6. Produces original or unusual ideas or methods to achieve goals and/or objectives.
7. Is independent, individualistic self-sufficient.
8. Has long attention span in area of interest.
9. Proficiency in basic skills (beyond grade level).
10. Prefers complex ideas.
11. Has many and varied interests.
12. Is more aware of national and world problems and events than peers.

Referrals:

Students may be referred by school staff, parents or they may refer themselves. Referral forms may be obtained in the office of each building.

Screening:

When the referral is received, the student's achievement test scores are reviewed and if the majority of the scores are in the 90th percentile further testing will be conducted with parental permission. Parents are notified at this time if further testing will be conducted or if the student did not meet the screening criteria.

Requirements: Students must meet three of the four criteria:

- A. 125 I.Q. on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale administered by designated school personnel.
- B. Score 95 to 99 percentile ⁽¹²⁵⁾ on three of the four cluster scores on the Woodcock-Johnson standardized achievement tests.
- C. Meet the requirement on the TOPS assessment which evaluated creativity, problem solving and reasoning skills. ⁽¹²⁵⁾
- D. Score in the advanced category in one subject area of the Missouri Assessment Program test.

Transfer Students:

Students who transfer to our district that have participated in a Missouri state assisted gifted program elsewhere will be accepted into our program.

Requirements to stay or leave the program:

- 1. Parents written request for a student to leave the program or sign a release form.
- 2. Students who wish to be reinstated at a later date will be retested and evaluated.